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Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 70/210, provides a description of the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) since the issuance of the previous report (A/70/210) in implementing the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and in strengthening UN-Habitat.

The report contains a description of significant activities undertaken during the reporting period at the global, regional, national and subnational levels, including on the governance of UN-Habitat; financial developments; contributions to the work of the High-level Committee on Programmes; the World Urban Campaign; the *World Cities Report 2016*; participation in activities relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; World Cities Day; regional ministerial meetings; regional state of cities reports; and thematic activities at the national and local levels, within the framework of the Programme's seven subprogrammes and cross-cutting issues.

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** The report was submitted late owing to the need to incorporate the outcome of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

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The report also sets out progress made in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), including on global preparations and mobilization of the United Nations system, regional preparatory activities, national preparations, mobilization of local governments and other relevant stakeholders, advocacy and communication, and the next steps in the preparations for Habitat III. Lastly, the report sets out a number of recommendations relating to human settlements policy matters and the Habitat III conference.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution 70/210 on the implementation of the outcome of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), including an update on progress made in the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The report describes the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II only, given that the Habitat III conference had not yet been held at the time of writing.

II. Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme: work of the Committee of Permanent Representatives Working Group on the Work Programme and Budget

2. In the period leading up to the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives held several formal and informal consultations on the governance review of UN-Habitat, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/239.

3. These prior consultations and negotiations led to an agreement, reached during the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, to create an oversight body, the Committee of Permanent Representatives Working Group on the Work Programme and Budget (see Council resolution 25/7 on United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform).

4. Since its establishment in June 2015, the Working Group has held two formal meetings, in September 2015 and in March 2016, lasting two days each. The two formal meetings resulted in key actionable recommendations to the Executive Director. The Working Group also held six informal meetings between June 2015 and May 2016.

5. At its formal meeting in September 2015, the Working Group focused its discussions on the 2015 report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the evaluation of UN-Habitat (E/AC.51/2015/2), the financial status of the Programme, resource mobilization, business transformation and the strategic positioning of UN-Habitat. The Working Group made recommendations to the Executive Director, including on the need to strengthen the organization's communication and external relations functions.

6. At its second meeting, in March 2016, the Working Group focused its discussions on the status of implementation of the recommendations arising from the 2015 OIOS report and on oversight, regional and country strategies, the communication strategy of UN-Habitat, business transformation and the strategic positioning of the organization, in particular in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the expected outcomes of Habitat III. UN-Habitat also provided highlights on the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the Working Group at its first meeting.

7. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat participated in every meeting of the Working Group, and members appreciated the open, frank and informative discussions at the meetings.

III. Update on financial developments

8. Projections for core income for the biennium 2016-2017 stand at $58.0 million for non-earmarked income and $320.0 million for earmarked income. As at 31 May 2016, non-earmarked income received and confirmed pledges amounted to $30.1 million (or 52 per cent of the projection), while $81.2 million (or 25 per cent of the projection) had been recorded in earmarked income using the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) basis.

9. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to implement a strengthened resource mobilization strategy aimed at widening its donor base to include emerging economy countries and to expand its earmarked project portfolio, including through regional resource mobilization action plans. UN-Habitat continued its participation in the United Nations-wide risk treatment working group focusing on enhancing income from voluntary extrabudgetary contributions.

10. The streamlining of full-cost recovery continued, in line with the principles outlined by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/226 to enable more accurate attribution of costs to projects, resulting in more accurate attribution of $2.4 million to earmarked projects in 2015, thus reducing subsidization of earmarked projects by core funds. The streamlining of cost recovery in the Umoja enterprise resource planning system and organizational procedures is being finalized to ensure that cost recovery is incorporated into the budgets and cost plans of every project.

11. Following the adoption of IPSAS, the UN-Habitat financial statements for 2014 were reviewed by the external Board of Auditors and were, for the first time, certified as IPSAS-compliant. The review of the second IPSAS-compliant financial statements, the 2015 financial statements, was under way at the time of writing.

12. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to control core expenditure through a wide range of measures, including the maintenance of low levels of travel costs, the limitation of new recruitment for core-funded posts to critical positions, closer alignment of expenditure with forecast income and more flexible allocation of staff. However, the savings from the above-mentioned measures were eroded by a significant reduction of $2.3 million in unearmarked voluntary contributions, with the result that the core deficit increased from $1.2 million in 2014 to $5.5 million in 2015.

IV. Substantive activities at the global level

13. The General Assembly recognized, in paragraph 25 of its resolution 70/210, that over the years, the responsibilities of UN-Habitat had changed considerably in their scope and complexity and that the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to developing countries had changed in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in its strategic plan for 2014-2019. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat carried out a wide range of activities at the global, regional and national levels, notwithstanding resource constraints.

14. The main activities at the global level included the preparation of a paper on urbanization and sustainable development for the High-level Committee on Programmes, the World Urban Campaign, the *World Cities Report 2016*, consultations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, World Habitat Day and World Cities Day.

A. High-level Committee on Programmes Working Group on a New United Nations Urban Agenda

15. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to chair the High level Committee on Programmes Working Group on a New United Nations Urban Agenda, which was established in early July 2014. The working group comprises 24 core United Nations system organizations.

16. The working group prepared a draft paper entitled "Urbanization and sustainable development: a United Nations system input to a new urban agenda". The main objectives of the paper were: (a) to develop a coherent United Nations system input to the preparatory process for Habitat III, in particular to the outcome document of the Conference, which is to be entitled "The New Urban Agenda"; (b) to ensure policy coherence and cooperation in the implementation of the cities and human settlements dimension of the 2030 Agenda and of the outcome of Habitat III; and (c) to provide a framework for the United Nations system organizations to showcase their work on urban issues.

17. The paper addresses the challenges facing today's urbanization patterns and the opportunities that urbanization offers for sustainable development. In addition, it proposes an issue-based multi-stakeholder partnership on the New Urban Agenda, to be established within the framework of the World Urban Campaign coordinated by UN-Habitat.

18. The working group also prepared a draft joint statement of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) on urbanization and sustainable development, based on the above-mentioned paper, to be delivered at the Conference.

19. Both the draft paper and the draft joint statement were approved by the High-level Committee on Programmes at its thirty-first session, held in Geneva in March 2016, and were endorsed by CEB at its first regular session of 2016, held in Vienna in April 2016.

20. Following the endorsement by CEB of the paper on urbanization and sustainable development, a number of United Nations system organizations expressed their interest in joining the proposed issue-based multi-stakeholder partnership on the New Urban Agenda. An event on the partnership was held at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, held in Surabaya, Indonesia in July 2016.

B. World Urban Campaign

21. The World Urban Campaign is instrumental in promoting urbanization issues and solutions through multiple networks and constituencies. It has grown

considerably in terms of visibility and membership and currently has 145 partners and members, including representatives of local and subnational authorities, research and academic institutions, civil society organizations, grass-roots organizations, women's groups, parliamentarians, children and young people, business and industries, professionals and trade unions. Steps are being taken to include United Nations system organizations, following a proposal endorsed by CEB in April 2016, as mentioned above.

22. In April 2015, the World Urban Campaign launched the General Assembly of Partners, conceived as a deliberative platform for non-governmental partners for Habitat III. The campaign prepared a document entitled "The city we need 2.0: towards a new urban paradigm", a consensus document containing principles, drivers of changes and solutions for developing cities that are inclusive and equitable, ecological and resilient, economically vibrant, safe and healthy.

23. During the reporting period, the World Urban Campaign organized 26 "urban thinkers campuses", engaging some 2,137 organizations and 7,847 participants from 124 countries on the key themes addressed in "The city we need", namely, urban resilience, smart urban planning, public space, urban slums and housing, the right to the city, urban prosperity and employment, migration, culture and identity, urban services, safety and health, justice, megacities, small and medium-sized cities and the role of children, young people and women. The recommendations made by participants in those campuses contributed to "The city we need 2.0", which was adopted in March 2016 and is to be shared prior to Habitat III through various channels.

C. *World Cities Report 2016: Urbanization and development: Emerging futures*

24. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat prepared the *World Cities Report 2016: Urbanization and development: Emerging futures*. This is the first edition of the report, following the amalgamation of the two previous flagship global reports of UN-Habitat, the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and *The State of the World's Cities*. The objective of the first edition of the *World Cities Report* is to take stock of urban developments over the past two decades, with a view to contributing to the formulation of a new urban agenda for the twenty-first century. The report is also intended to serve as a major background document for Habitat III.

25. The report was launched in May 2016. Its analysis of urban development in the past 20 years shows, with compelling evidence, that there are new forms of collaboration and cooperation, planning, governance, finance and learning that can sustain positive change. The report unequivocally demonstrates that the current urbanization model is unsustainable in many respects. It conveys a clear message that the pattern of urbanization needs to change in order to better respond to current global challenges, such as inequality, climate change, informality, insecurity and the unsustainable forms of urban expansion.

26. In the report, five policy directions for a New Urban Agenda are proposed. First, the New Urban Agenda must be forward-looking and focused on problem-solving, with clear means of implementation.

27. Second, the agenda should convey a sense of urgency in the implementation of policies and actions that cannot depend on political schedules or opportunistic moments, but on clear and well-defined implementation plans.

28. Third, the new agenda must seek to create a mutually reinforcing relationship between urbanization and development, with the aim of turning cities and towns into vehicles for sustainable development.

29. Fourth, the new agenda should establish links to other global agreements and agendas and must be clearly connected to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

30. Lastly, the vision of the New Urban Agenda should be steered to induce transformative change and should promote a new urbanization model that is universal and adaptable to different national circumstances.

D. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

31. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to participate actively in the processes relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

32. The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by Member States in September 2015, include a goal on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11), with 10 targets that address both the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and new issues for the twenty-first century. This indicates that well-planned and managed urbanization is now recognized as an important tool for sustainable development.

33. Since the creation by the Statistical Commission of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, UN-Habitat has supported and assisted national statistical offices, in particular at its meetings in New York in June 2015, Bangkok in October 2015 and Mexico in March 2016.

34. UN-Habitat has also coordinated the inputs of other United Nations system entities on the review and refinement of the indicators under discussion for Goal 11 and for other Goals with an urban component and has led the compilation of metadata for the same. The majority of the indicators tabled for Goal 11 were recommended in the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group to the Statistical Commission (see E/CN.3/2016/2/Rev.1, annex IV).

35. UN-Habitat co-organized a consultation on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III. In addition, UN-Habitat is in the process of preparing a toolkit for the local implementation of the Goals, in cooperation with UNDP and the Global Task Force.

36. Lastly, UN-Habitat started the process of aligning its strategic Plan for 2014-2019 and strategic framework for 2018-2019 with the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 11 and relevant targets of other Goals. Both the strategic plan and the strategic framework will be revised following Habitat III in order to reflect the outcome of the conference, as well as the Sustainable Development

Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Paris Agreement on climate change, among other international agreements.

E. World Habitat Day and Urban October

37. World Habitat Day 2015 was celebrated on Monday, 5 October, under the theme "Public spaces for all". The global observance of World Habitat Day took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, where a high-level discussion covering key developments in the area of public space design was held. The event was organized by UN-Habitat, the Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, the American Institute of Architects New York, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Institute of Global Homelessness, United Cities and Local Governments and the Permanent Mission of Grenada to the United Nations. Invited guests, panellists and moderators included the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, and the Nobel Peace Prize winner Orhan Pamuk. The event was an outcome of a partnership with the UN-Women global initiative, the HeForShe campaign.

38. Also on 5 October, UN-Habitat launched the Urban Nights campaign, the first of six events promoting the World Habitat Day theme "Public spaces for all" through film screenings in public spaces. Urban Nights was held in six public locations and spaces around the city of Nairobi during "Urban October".

39. World Habitat Day marked the beginning of Urban October, a month dedicated to celebrating and promoting a better urban future. During the month, 95 events promoting the themes of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day were held by partners in 35 countries around the world. Urban October 2015 also partnered with the United Nations campaign "Time for Global Action for People and Planet" on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

F. World Cities Day

40. World Cities Day 2015 was celebrated on 31 October under the general theme "Better city, better life" and sub-theme "Designed to live together". The global observance of World Cities Day was hosted by UN-Habitat, the city of Milan and the Shanghai municipal government in Milan, Italy. The opening ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Milan, Giuliano Pisapia, the Vice-Mayor of Shanghai, Jiang Zhuoqing and the Secretary-General of the International Exhibitions Bureau, Vicente Loscertales.

41. Three key note speakers, namely, the Vice-President of Tongji University, China, Wu Zhiqiang, the President of the Venice Biennale, Paolo Baratta, and the Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Aromar Revi, discussed the sub-theme "Designed to live together" in a special session called "Urban talk". The event was the last of the three United Nations Days selected by the Organization to be celebrated within the framework of the 2015 World Exposition.

42. UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Government of China, also organized a three-day World Cities Day forum in Shanghai, China. On the same occasion, UN-Habitat held a United Nations inter-agency football tournament in Nairobi promoting the Word Cities Day sub-theme.

43. World Cities Day also marked the end of Urban October. On the occasion of the third celebration of World Cities Day, in 2016, an evaluation assessment will be conducted pursuant to paragraph 24 of General Assembly resolution 68/239. The evaluation was delayed by one year in order to identify new ways of implementing World Cities Day in the context of the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at the Habitat III conference in October 2016.

V. Activities at the regional level

44. At the regional level, UN-Habitat continued to assist in the organization of, or contribute to, regional ministerial meetings on housing and urban development. The Programme also worked to promote the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to prepare the regional State of Cities reports.

A. Regional ministerial meetings

45. Based on a resolution of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, the League of Arab States Arab Council of Ministers of Housing and Construction agreed, at its 29th meeting, held in December 2012, on the establishment of the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development to discuss housing and sustainable development challenges in the Arab region and introduce new ways of addressing them.

46. The first session of the Arab Ministerial Forum, on the theme "Arab urbanization: present challenges and future prospects", was hosted by Egypt in December 2015. The meeting was organized in cooperation with the League of Arab States, represented by the Arab Council of Ministers of Housing and Construction, with the technical support of UN-Habitat and in coordination with the Arab Towns Organization and the Arab Urban Development Institute.

47. A total of 19 Arab countries participated in the forum, which covered a number of thematic areas, including social justice, planning and sustainable development, risk management, infrastructure and basic services, climate change and environmental sustainability, legislation and urban economy.

48. The forum culminated in the adoption by the Arab countries of the Cairo Declaration on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, in which they reiterated their commitment towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reaffirmed their willingness to contribute and implement the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document expected to emerge from Habitat III.

49. The twenty-fourth session of the General Assembly of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean was held in August 2015 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. UN-Habitat was invited to provide technical support and to participate in the sessions. The Assembly

discussed key issues relating to sustainable urbanization in the region, including the recognition that cities and urban areas are centres of opportunity and growth, but are also exposed to challenges such as inequality, unacceptable living conditions and social, environmental and economic vulnerability. Members of the General Assembly of Ministers and High-Level Authorities expressed their commitment to working towards improving the quality of life and contributing to urban and social inclusion.

50. The General Assembly of Ministers and High-Level Authorities also agreed to advance towards a common regional position with respect to Habitat III and in assuming a leadership role in the definition, follow-up and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, thereby indicating their commitment to developing inclusive, secure, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. It also committed to becoming a consultative body for the UN-Habitat regional strategic plan for Latin America and the Caribbean.

B. Regional State of Cities reports

51. From May 2015 to January 2016, UN-Habitat finalized the English language version of *The State of Asian and Pacific Cities 2015: Urban transformations: Shifting from quantity to quality*, which was launched at the sixth Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, held in Jakarta in September 2015. At the time of writing, the report was being translated into Chinese.

52. UN-Habitat started drafting the English language version of *State of European Union Cities 2016*, to be published before the end of 2016.

53. UN-Habitat completed the preparation of phase 1 of the research for *State of African Cities 2017*, analysing financial flows for urban development. The research findings of phase 1 were an integral part of the report *Africa Economic Outlook 2016*, published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in May 2016.

VI. Thematic activities at the national and subnational levels

54. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat implemented a wide range of Habitat Agenda activities, including operational projects, at the national and subnational levels in the following thematic areas: urban legislation, land and governance; urban planning and design; urban economy and municipal finance; urban basic services; housing and slum upgrading; risk reduction and rehabilitation; research and capacity development; and gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women.

A. Urban legislation, land and governance

55. As part of the United Nations task team supporting preparations for Habitat III, UN-Habitat produced an issue paper on urban rules and legislation. This was part of an overall process towards Habitat III that included the preparation of 22 issue papers. The document highlighted the main concepts and key facts on the state of urban law since Habitat II and identified key drivers for action for the New Urban Agenda.

56. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat supported capacity development in 12 counties through the Kenya Municipal Programme. The Programme is aimed at strengthening local governance and improving service delivery in selected municipalities in Kenya. UN-Habitat also conducted training for members of county assemblies and technical staff based on its "integrated rapid planning studio" methodology, which integrates legislation, finance and economy, and urban planning and design.

57. UN-Habitat continued to participate as a member of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, partnering with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and 20 other United Nations offices and entities to advance work relating to the rule of law across the United Nations system, including land and conflict.

58. Together with national and international partners, UN-Habitat made technical contributions to the preparatory work that led to the adoption by Ecuador of a bill on land management and planning in 2016.

59. UN-Habitat led the Global Land Indicators Initiative, comprising 45 international partners, including such United Nations system entities as the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Economic Commission for Africa and the World Bank towards the promotion of issues concerning land within the Sustainable Development Goals.

60. UN-Habitat also developed a situational analysis and scoping report on the applications of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security in urban and peri-urban areas. In December 2015, UN-Habitat concluded a cooperation agreement with the FAO office in Kenya to implement a project on land-use planning in urban and peri-urban contexts in Turkana district.

61. UN-Habitat has given priority to partnering with local governments and their associations with the aim of enhancing their capacities to offer technical support to public administrations of all sizes. It supported the delegation of mayors and local and regional governments to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in July 2015.

62. In addition, UN-Habitat supported the organization of five high-level side events during the third International Conference on Financing for Development and one full-day technical event on local financing for development and innovation in municipal finance for inclusive growth, which brought together 90 representatives from local and central governments, financial institutions, foundations and United Nations system entities to exchange experiences and identify new trends in municipal finance.

B. Urban planning and design

63. As a contribution to Habitat III, UN-Habitat co-led policy unit 3, on national urban policies. It also coordinated the contribution of the United Nations task team on Habitat III in the preparation of issue paper No. 10, on urban-rural linkages, issue paper No. 8, on urban and spatial planning and design, and issue paper No. 11, on public space.

64. UN-Habitat organized a panel discussion on public spaces as a key to urban regeneration at the International Conference on Culture for Sustainable Cities, held in Hangzhou, China, in December 2015.

65. UN-Habitat also organized the first International Conference on National Urban Policy, held in Incheon, Republic of Korea in December 2015. The conference brought together over 200 national urban policy experts, government officials and international organizations.

66. In addition, UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on urban-rural linkages, focusing on the role of intermediate cities in strengthening urban-rural linkages towards the New Urban Agenda, which was held in October 2015 in Monteria, Colombia. The results of the meeting were set out in the Monteria Communiqué.

67. The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 25/6, were published in all official languages of the United Nations and translated into five additional languages (Bahasa, Japanese, Persian, Portuguese and Vietnamese).

68. The Urban Planning and Design Lab was established in 2014 to promptly respond to the requests of national and local governments with concrete and implementable planning proposals. In 2015, the Global Network of Urban Planning and Design Labs was established and work on projects uniting international and local expertise in more than 20 countries and 40 cities across the world was implemented.

69. UN-Habitat also launched the "Global public space toolkit: from global principles to local policies and practice" in May 2015. The toolkit is a user-friendly guide that provides cities, in particular those with high rates of demographic growth and limited financial resources, with actionable ideas on how to improve the availability, quality and distribution of good public spaces.

70. In 2015 and 2016, support to urban planning associations resulted in the establishment or strengthening of six national associations in the Caribbean, and training in urban planning was provided to planners, local leaders and communities in Kenya, Myanmar and Nigeria at the national level, in the Caribbean and Asia at the regional level and in several countries at the city level.

71. UN-Habitat led the development of a multi-stakeholder climate change knowledge product entitled *Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning*, which was launched during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. To date, the document has been endorsed by 45 partner organizations inside and outside the United Nations system.

72. In 2015, UN-Habitat continued as an active participant in two multilateral climate initiatives that it helped to launch in 2014, the Compact of Mayors and the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. By the end of 2015, 428 mayors had announced their intention to comply with the Compact of Mayors, on whose management committee UN-Habitat serves. The Compact of Mayors enjoyed high visibility at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, on whose steering committee UN-Habitat also serves, was also

visible at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretary-General launched the report by the Alliance, entitled *The State of City Climate Finance* at the twenty-first session.

73. In 2015, UN-Habitat became the twelfth multilateral implementing entity accredited to the Adaptation Fund. Also in 2015, UN-Habitat joined the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants. UN-Habitat is now also on the path to accreditation to the Green Climate Fund.

74. Lastly, a UN-Habitat/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) team supported Myanmar in the implementation of its Climate Change Alliance, funded by the European Union. The team helped Myanmar to develop its official plan for addressing climate change, namely, the "Intended nationally determined contribution", which was submitted to the secretariat of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015.

C. Urban economy and municipal finance

75. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge products on inclusive economic growth, with an emphasis on the promotion of local economic development strategies, the creation of jobs and livelihoods, in particular for young people and women, and the promotion of innovative municipal revenue-generating mechanisms.

76. A key outcome was the production of issue papers on municipal finance, local economic development, jobs and livelihoods, and the informal economy for the Habitat III conference. Capacities for the development of plans and strategies for supporting local economic development were strengthened through the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development programme, which has been supported financially by the Government of Spain and implemented in Bogota.

77. The Urban Youth Fund, the India Youth Fund and the new youth fund programme called "Lotte Window", which is supported by the private sector, continued to be the anchor projects under the youth-led development programme of UN-Habitat. Since its inception, the Urban Youth Fund has supported 277 youth groups in 70 developing countries and 172 cities. The Lotte Window is now funding 10 youth-led groups in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2015, the India Youth Fund granted funding to five youth-led groups in the areas of environment, women's rights and entrepreneurship development.

78. There was a strong focus on youth and post-conflict issues in 2015. UN-Habitat contributed to the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth and peacebuilding.

79. In Somalia, UN-Habitat contributed to the establishment of financial management systems in 15 districts under the joint programme on local governance and decentralized service delivery for Somalia. An automated municipal finance system has considerably improved revenue collection, transparency, accountability and the financial procedures of local governments.

80. UN-Habitat started work with development banks, local authorities, the private sector and foundations towards developing local and regional mechanisms for

financing a new generation of sustainable urban development interventions. Stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean commenced discussions in Bogota in March 2016, based on proposals made by UN-Habitat.

D. Housing and slum upgrading

81. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to implement the participatory slum-upgrading programme in 35 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. UN-Habitat is aiming to mainstream programme principles and priorities in the work of the United Nations country teams. Of the 35 countries, 25 have already reflected the programme in their United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

82. In Papua New Guinea, UN-Habitat implemented the action-planning phase of the participatory slum-upgrading programme in 2015. It is providing technical support to the formulation of a citywide slum-upgrading strategy for Port Moresby. In Greater Accra, UN-Habitat cooperated with the World Bank on a diagnostic study of the city's resilience.

83. A new phase of the participatory slum-upgrading programme was also launched. This will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 as a whole and, more particularly, to the delivery of target 11.1, namely, "By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums".

84. In December 2015, UN-Habitat provided urban-specific advisory services to the newly formed Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare in Namibia, within the context of overall support in developing a strategy to address poverty in the country provided by the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Windhoek.

85. UN-Habitat coordinated an expert consultation on homelessness, which was organized in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and held in Geneva in November 2015.

86. In addition, UN-Habitat consolidated its work on inclusive housing finance. A high-level international expert group meeting was held in Madrid in May 2016 to address the challenges of financing public policies on housing. UN-Habitat also actively participated in the seventh Global Housing Finance Conference, held in Washington, D.C., in May 2016.

87. Under the auspices of the Global Housing Strategy to the Year 2025, in alignment with target 11.1 of Sustainable Development Goal 11, UN-Habitat initiated pilot activities to support housing policy formulation, design and implementation in the countries of Afghanistan, Ghana, Guyana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Myanmar and Zambia. A contribution agreement was signed with UNDP, which provided financial support to UN-Habitat for technical activities in the field of housing in Guyana. UN-Habitat also led the formulation of a national housing strategy in Lesotho.

88. UN-Habitat, in partnership with UNEP, continued to contribute to the Sustainable Buildings and Construction programme of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, within the context of both the Global Housing Strategy and target 11.c of Goal 11. In June 2015,

UN-Habitat and the UNEP Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative launched a joint publication entitled *Green Building Interventions for Social Housing*.

89. UN-Habitat and OHCHR continued joint work under the auspices of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme. Two new streams of work under the Programme were opened in 2015, in preparation for Habitat III, on persons with disabilities and on homelessness.

90. UN-Habitat also commenced active engagement in the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including through participation in the annual meetings, held in Beirut in May 2015 and in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2016 during the World Humanitarian Summit.

91. Lastly, UN-Habitat actively participated in the Human Rights Working Group of the United Nations Development Group. In that context, UN-Habitat co-led the drafting of an assessment report on national tracking systems for the follow-up on human rights recommendations and organized a frontier dialogue on human rights and urbanization in May 2016.

E. Urban basic services

92. As a member of the technical working group formed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to support the Secretary-General's High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport, UN-Habitat coordinated the preparation of issue papers on urbanization, transport management and operation, and inter-city and intra-city multi-modal interfacing, with inputs from other members of the working group. UN-Habitat also coordinated an analysis of the transport-related aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals.

93. Building on the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative launched at the Climate Summit, held in September 2014, UN-Habitat organized a high-level event on the International Zero-Emission Vehicle Alliance, held at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The event demonstrated the commitment of Governments and the private sector to accelerating the adoption of zero-emission vehicles.

94. UN-Habitat also participated in the Transport Forum of the African Development Bank, held in November 2015 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, at which it made presentations on transport for green and inclusive growth.

95. UN-Habitat also played a leading role, under the umbrella of UN-Water, in developing a global expanded water-monitoring initiative. This initiative is expected to establish and maintain a global monitoring mechanism, including baselines, for tracking progress in the implementation of Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which pertains to water and sanitation.

96. UN-Habitat was re-elected as co-chair of the Global Wastewater Initiative. The Initiative is a voluntary multi-stakeholder platform comprising United Nations entities, international organizations, Governments, scientists and the private sector. Its aim is to facilitate coordinated action to tackle the wastewater challenge and promote the wastewater agenda.

97. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization organized a session on energy and cities at the Vienna Energy Forum held in June

2015 in Vienna. The Forum provided a high-level platform for policymakers and energy practitioners to engage in a multi-stakeholder dialogue on pivotal sustainable energy issues connected to inclusive development, including partnerships, finance, policy, technology, capacity-building and knowledge management.

98. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat took part in an initiative that resulted in the establishment of a network on district energy and the publication of a report on district energy in cities. It also collaborated with UNEP and the Global Environment Facility on a project on promoting energy efficiency in buildings in East Africa. To date, the project has trained more than 350 architects, engineers and quantity surveyors in the region.

99. UN-Habitat organized a side event on cities and energy during the second Sustainable Energy for All Forum, held in New York in May 2015. Sustainable Energy for All is a multi-stakeholder partnership among Governments, the private sector and civil society launched by the Secretary-General in 2011.

100. Lastly, UN-Habitat continued to implement the project on sustainable transport for East African cities. In Nairobi, an operational plan for the first demonstration of a rapid transit corridor for buses was presented to the Government and stakeholders. In Kampala, a mobility map was developed, using an innovative methodology based on the use of smartphones.

F. Risk reduction and rehabilitation

101. In 2015, UN-Habitat started contributing to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 through its representation in the Senior Management Group, which supports the High-level Committee on Programmes. UN-Habitat also contributed to the ongoing development of indicators for the monitoring and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

102. UN-Habitat worked with other United Nations system entities in revising the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience, stressing the need for integrated and cross-sectoral risk management and the importance of cooperation between national and local levels of government.

103. In mid-2015, UN-Habitat was designated as a liaison agency to Technical Committee 292 of the International Standards Organization, which has a mandate to develop a new portfolio of standards addressing urban resilience.

104. Also in 2015, UN-Habitat continued its engagement with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, especially by strengthening global knowledge of post-crisis urban recovery. In May 2015, UN-Habitat hosted the meeting of the Committee principals in Nairobi. The principals endorsed the work of the Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, which UN-Habitat chairs.

105. UN-Habitat continued to support development work in Haiti towards a strategy on sustainable urbanization, following initial work on post-disaster recovery. Results on support to sustainable housing reconstruction and post-disaster strengthening of local authorities were presented in October 2015.

106. UN-Habitat continued to support disaster response efforts led by the United Nations at the country level. Following the earthquake in Nepal, in April 2015,

UN-Habitat participated in assessment and response missions and, specifically, in drafting urban policy papers to help to clarify the urban dimensions of the crisis.

107. Four urban specialists were deployed to support the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response in developing urban strategic response plans and programmes for upgrading informal settlements in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

108. In addition, UN-Habitat responded to the earthquake in Ecuador in April 2016 and provided support to the Government in a number of areas, including housing, urban planning and design and urban resilience.

109. UN-Habitat, through its City Resilience Profiling Programme and in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments and more than 50 other humanitarian organizations, produced an urban strategy for the World Humanitarian Summit.

110. Lastly, UN-Habitat forged broad-based partnerships with United Nations system entities and civil society through the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, an initiative established in close collaboration with the secretariat of the World Humanitarian Summit. The Alliance is a coalition uniting municipal authorities, humanitarian and development actors, urban professionals and the private sector to ensure better preparedness and a more effective response to the growing urban nature of crises.

G. Research and capacity development

111. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat proposed the adaptation of the City Prosperity Initiative as a global monitoring framework for the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document expected from the Habitat III conference. The Initiative is currently being implemented in more than 400 cities across the world. If accepted, the Initiative will allow national and local governments to better organize monitoring on a single platform, minimizing efforts and avoiding duplication in the reporting process.

112. The City Prosperity Initiative is gaining importance in Latin America and the Caribbean as a key area of the technical cooperation of UN-Habitat. A new regional City Prosperity Initiative is currently developing technical advisory services in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

113. UN-Habitat prepared a global monitoring framework guide for Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals that provides definitions and metadata for all proposed indicators. The guide will assist countries and cities in the setting of national targets, including specific benchmarks and standards, and in their reporting efforts.

114. UN-Habitat advised a number of countries and cities in their efforts to integrate national and local planning processes in response to the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals. It also initiated the preparation of specific tools and guidelines that are intended to assist in the provision of technical advisory services to Member States in localizing indicators at the city level.

115. Within the context of preparations for the global monitoring of and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat is

working on a global sample of cities. This will also be used to assist countries in preparing similar samples of urban centres at the national level.

116. Lastly, in close collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions, UN-Habitat advanced in the preparation of regional meetings to assess monitoring and reporting needs, including training and capacity development in data collection and monitoring.

H. Gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women

117. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat promoted gender equality and the empowerment of women as essential components of sustainable urban development. In fulfilling its mandate, UN-Habitat strived to promote improvement in the achievement of women's rights, their equal participation in decision-making and services that benefit women and men equally.

118. In September 2015, the gender equality marker for UN-Habitat was rolled out. The process began in January 2015 with desk research and consultations. The gender equality marker was applied to 209 ongoing projects in June 2015 in order to establish a baseline for the progress of the marker. Its roll-out occurred in conjunction with that of other cross-cutting markers.

119. In November 2015, UN-Habitat conducted training on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in urban development and results-based management for UN-Habitat partners, at the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Centre in Haifa, Israel.

120. Lastly, UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting on women in sustainable housing, held in Nairobi in December 2015. A set of steps required to reach agreed programme goals and harness indicators was outlined at the meeting, which was attended by representatives from a wide range of organizations.

VII. Preparatory activities for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

121. Following the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in April 2015 at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, a number of additional preparatory activities for Habitat III were held at the global, regional and national levels, in line with the recommendations made at that session and the strategic framework for Habitat III presented at the first session of the Preparatory Committee. The full report on the Habitat III preparatory activities will be submitted by the Secretary-General of the conference in October 2016 in Quito.

A. Global preparations for Habitat III and mobilization of the United Nations system

122. The General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 68/239, requested the Secretary-General of Habitat III to mobilize the expertise of the United Nations system as a whole, including the regional economic and social commissions, and of other relevant regional and subregional organizations, for the Habitat III preparatory process.

123. In line with that request, the United Nations task team on Habitat III, comprising more than 30 United Nations agencies and programmes, was established in January 2015 to prepare inputs for the preparatory process in the form of a series of issue papers on 22 main topics expected to be covered by the New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of Habitat III. The issue papers were translated into the official languages of the United Nations and uploaded to the Habitat III website. Member States and stakeholders were requested to submit written comments, which were also uploaded to the website, so as to ensure full transparency (see www.habitat3.org). During most of the reporting period, the United Nations task team on Habitat III met once a month.

124. The task team was also involved in organizing several cross-cutting expert group meetings, whose work fed substantively into the Habitat III preparatory process. A total of 10 expert group meetings were organized on the following topics: gender mainstreaming, human rights, food security, health, smart cities, culture, land and law, water and sanitation, safer cities and migration.

125. During the reporting period, the Habitat III policy units, each composed of up to 20 experts from a variety of fields, including academic institutions, government, civil society and regional and international bodies, prepared 10 policy papers for Habitat III. The policy papers were based on an exploration of state-of-the-art research and analysis as well as the identification of good practices and lessons learned. The papers set out policy recommendations that could contribute to the work to be undertaken by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee in preparing the draft outcome document of the conference.

126. The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/210, approved the provisional rules of procedure of the conference and the arrangements for the accreditation and participation of major groups and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and in Habitat III, as set out in annexes I and II to that resolution. It also decided that a process of open-ended informal consultative meetings should be held for five days in April 2016.

127. The Bureau of the Preparatory Committee was also invited by the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/210, to convene further informal intergovernmental negotiations in New York for three days in May 2016, three days in June 2016 and three days in July 2016. Representatives of associations of local authorities and of major groups and other stakeholders were invited to two-day informal hearings in May and June 2016, respectively, to exchange views with countries on the zero draft of the Habitat III outcome document.

128. The concerted efforts of the Habitat III Bureau, together with contributions in the form of declarations from both regional and thematic meetings, enabled the drafting of the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda. The zero draft was submitted on 6 May 2016 by the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

129. Open-ended informal consultative meetings were held in New York from 25 to 29 April. The purpose of the meetings was to provide an opportunity for feedback on the conclusions of the Habitat III policy units and the regional and thematic meetings. The meeting participants included over 60 policy unit experts and representatives from co-leading organizations.

130. The first informal intergovernmental negotiations were held in New York from 18 to 20 May 2016, after which the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee requested Mexico and the Philippines to co-facilitate future negotiations. The second and third informal intergovernmental negotiations were held in New York from 8 to 10 June and from 29 June to 1 July. The main objectives of the negotiations were to invite Member States to provide comments, views and suggestions on the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda and to discuss the next steps in the negotiation process.

131. Several missions were carried out by the Habitat III secretariat to prepare for the third session of the Habitat III Preparatory Committee, in collaboration with the host country and the host city, as well as the appropriate departments of the United Nations Secretariat. The session was successfully hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Surabaya, from 25 to 27 July 2016. Member States discussed the zero draft of the New Urban Agenda but did not reach agreement on a number of areas. A revised draft of the Agenda was prepared and posted on the Habitat III website.

B. Regional preparations for Habitat III

132. Pursuant to paragraph 5 of UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution 24/14 and in line with the Habitat III road map for 2014-2016, UN-Habitat and the five United Nations regional economic and social commissions jointly prepared five regional reports, drawing on the Habitat III national reports and all available knowledge and data from all regions. The preliminary findings of each report were shared at the regional meetings mentioned below and at the third session of the Preparatory Committee, in Surabaya. The final versions of the reports are scheduled to be launched in Quito at the Habitat III conference.

133. Four regional high-level meetings on Habitat III preparations were held, as follows:

- Asia and the Pacific: in Jakarta, on 21 and 22 October 2015
- Africa: in Abuja, from 24 to 26 February 2016
- Latin America and the Caribbean: in Toluca, Mexico, from 18 to 20 April 2016
- Europe: in Prague, from 16 to 18 March 2016.

134. The regional meetings had a wide range of participants, who discussed priorities for the New Urban Agenda and provided recommendations in the form of regional declarations. The declarations were considered official inputs to the Habitat III preparatory process and were uploaded to the Habitat III webpage, www.habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/rt-meetings.

135. A series of thematic meetings were also organized. The meetings also concluded with declarations, including on:

- Civic engagement, on 7 September 2015, in Tel Aviv, Israel
- Metropolitan areas, on 6 and 7 October 2015, in Montreal, Canada
- Intermediate cities, from 9 to 11 November 2015, in Cuenca, Ecuador

- Sustainable energy and cities, on 20 January 2016, in Abu Dhabi
- Financing urban development, from 9 to 11 March 2016, in Mexico City
- Public spaces, on 4 and 5 April 2016, in Barcelona, Spain
- Informal settlements, on 7 and 8 April 2016, in Pretoria.

136. The declarations at the completion of both regional and thematic meetings were formulated by an advisory board that comprised a wide range of representatives from various constituent groups, including experts from the United Nations system, national and local government representatives and members of the various groups within the General Assembly of Partners, such as civil society and grass-roots groups, academic institutions, regional organizations, business and industry.

C. National preparations for Habitat III

137. Member States continued to submit national reports for Habitat III and to engage stakeholders at the national level in organizing national urban forums and/or national urban campaigns in order to raise awareness and generate commitment towards the New Urban Agenda.

138. The Habitat III secretariat provided funds from the Habitat III Trust Fund, upon request, to support the least developed countries in the preparation of their Habitat III national reports. All the submitted national reports have been uploaded to the Habitat III website.

D. Mobilization of local governments and other relevant stakeholders

139. Informal hearings with local authorities' associations were held in New York on 16 and 17 May 2016. More than 130 representatives of local authorities and over 30 elected mayors participated. The consultative process provided a good platform for dialogue among national, regional and local governments. It continued a tradition started at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in 1996.

140. The General Assembly of Partners for Habitat III, established at the second session of the Preparatory Committee held in Nairobi in April 2015, continued supporting and improving stakeholders' engagement in and contributions to the preparatory process for the conference. The Assembly comprises 16 partner constituent groups, namely, local and subnational authorities, research and academic institutions, civil society organizations, grass-roots organizations, women, parliamentarians, children and young people, business and industries, foundations and philanthropic institutions, professionals, trade unions and workers, farmers, indigenous people, the media, old persons and persons with disabilities.

141. Members of all 16 partner constituent groups were included in the advisory boards of all 11 regional and thematic meetings. They were also invited to the informal consultative meetings held in April 2016 in New York and to the informal hearings with local authorities' associations held in May 2016 and with stakeholders in June 2016. During the reporting period, the members of the General Assembly of Partners met twice, in New York in October 2015 and in Prague in March 2016.

142. As part of the efforts to improve the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, preparations were initiated towards the organization of the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities, to be held immediately prior to Habitat III.

E. Advocacy and communication for Habitat III

143. An important vehicle for advocacy and communication on Habitat III issues is the Urban Journalism Academy. This is an innovative initiative launched in 2014 in conjunction with the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, held in Medellin, Colombia. More than 40 journalists from across the world participated in the launch, in the presence of representatives of major international media organizations, including Al-Jazeera (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), The Guardian (United Kingdom), Inter Press Service (United States of America), La Nación (Argentina) and El País (Spain).

144. The Urban Journalism Academy aims to strengthen the capacity of journalists and media professionals to analyse the overall process of urbanization on the basis of substantive knowledge (including urban data and indicators) about and experiences on the planning and management of cities provided to them by UN-Habitat. It also aims to make urban development issues and challenges clear and accessible to the general public. A total of 18 urban journalism academies were organized globally and, through them, journalists have become spokespersons for sustainable urban development.

145. Another vehicle for advocacy and communication was the Habitat III citizens campaign, which was established by the Habitat III secretariat, in close collaboration with local partners, in May 2016. The campaign includes co-hosting a number of specific initiatives, such as Urban Breakfasts and Urban Walks in various cities. The Urban Breakfasts, which were organized with various relevant partners, such as the Ford Foundation, were held every month across the world. The main goal of the breakfasts was to create a platform for knowledge-sharing and to encourage informal discussion of the challenges of sustainable urban development as well as key priorities that should be taken into account in the New Urban Agenda.

146. The objective of the Habitat III Urban Walks was to share best practices on urban design and governance in New York City and showcase the relevance of the New Urban Agenda to real life in cities. The Habitat III Urban Walks initiated a discussion on urban planning and the challenges of sustainable urban development, while demonstrating successful planning tools to the audience. The walks attracted various audiences, including local authorities, representatives of Member States, high-level officials, stakeholders and other interested parties.

F. Financial resources for Habitat III

147. In the area of resource mobilization for the Habitat III Trust Fund, the Habitat III secretariat was able to mobilize both direct and indirect financial contributions from Member States, namely, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Slovakia and Spain, foundations and philanthropic institutions such as the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation and United Nations agencies such as UNEP.

148. The Habitat III secretariat adopted a specific approach to mobilizing additional funds through cash contributions from the countries hosting regional and thematic meetings, including Czechia, Ecuador, Mexico and South Africa. Additional resources were mobilized through the policy units. Member States and stakeholders were encouraged not only to propose qualified technical experts, but also to co-lead the policy units with organizations able to make financial contributions.

G. Next steps in the preparations for Habitat III

149. At the time of writing, a number of key steps were still to be taken before the Habitat III conference, including: additional intergovernmental informal negotiations on the draft of the Habitat III outcome document, the New Urban Agenda, scheduled for late August and early September 2016; finalization of the details of the organization of the conference, in close collaboration with the host city (Quito) and the host country (Ecuador); and finalization of the proposals for the Habitat Village, exhibitions and side events, including a proposed speakers' corner.

VIII. Recommendations

150. In the light of the issues discussed in the present report, Member States are called upon to:

(a) Consider the provision of additional core resources to UN-Habitat in order to strengthen its normative and operational capacity, in the light of the considerable change in scope and complexity of its responsibilities, and to enable it to meet adequately the increasing requirements to provide substantive and technical support to developing countries in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as recognized in paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 70/210;

(b) Strengthen the current role of UN-Habitat as the focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements issues within the United Nations system and support the establishment of a system-wide coordinated approach to sustainable urbanization and human settlements development at all levels that builds on experience to date in order to foster the monitoring and accountability of United Nations system activities in support of the implementation, by Member States, of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the outcome of the Habitat III conference;

(c) Provide strong political support to the outcome document of the Habitat III Conference, the New Urban Agenda, in order to strengthen the contribution of well-planned urbanization to sustainable development;

(d) Put in place robust New Urban Agenda implementation, coordination and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms capable of assisting Governments, at all levels, in meeting the challenges of rapid urbanization and poverty eradication;

(e) Capitalize on the partnerships and structures used during the Habitat III preparatory process to support effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the national and subnational levels.